

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1156

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6304

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US, AEMR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISITS TO CHRISTIAN SECTOR

REF: (A) BEIRUT 6223, (B) BEIRUT 6261

1. IF DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING HAVING NECK MURPHY VISIT MARONITE CHRISTIAN ZONE WITHIN THE COMING WEEK, WE VISUALIZE THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO. IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO TRAVEL TO THE CHRISTIAN ZONE BY ROAD, WE PROPOSE ASKING EMBASSY DAMASCUS TO ARRANGE TRANSIT APPROVAL FROM THE SYRIANS AND REQUEST THAT SARG CONTACT THE MARONITE AUTHORITIES TO RECEIVE HIM. HE COULD UTILIZE ONE OF THE NEW ARMORED CARS DESTINED FOR BEIRUT AND HAVE AN APPROPRIATE DRIVER FROM EMBASSY DAMASCUS GO WITH HIM. IN ADDITION, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR SY AGENT PROVYN TO TRAVEL WITH MURPHY. PROVYN IS NOW IN DAMASCUS WAITING WORD AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE WILL BE NEEDED IN BEIRUT. WE WOULD VISUALIZE MURPHY REMAINING IN CHRISTIAN ZONE FOR UP TO ONE WEEK, EITHER ESTABLISHING CONTACTS ON HIS OWN OR LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR MY POSSIBLE VISIT THE NEXT WEEK FOLLOWING MY DEPARTURE FROM WEST BEIRUT.

2. IF IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR MURPHY TO TRAVEL TO THAT AREA BY THE FARAYAH ROAD, HE MIGHT LOOK INTO POSSIBILITIES FOR ENTRY FROM THE NORTHERN SECTOR IN AND AROUND TRIPOLI. IF NEITHER ROUTE IS FEASIBLE, HE COULD FLY OUT TO ATHENS AND ENTER VIA CYPRUS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING DAMASCUS ADVISE WHETHER OR NOT ROAD TRANSIT IS POSSIBLE ALONG WITH THEIR VIEWS ON FEASIBILITY OF

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OBTAINING NECESSARY PERMISSION.

3. IF DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS IT SAFE AND APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO VISIT THE CHRISTIAN SECTOR AFTER I LEAVE BEIRUT AND BEFORE I RETURN TO WASHINGTON, I WOULD GO IN VIA CYPRUS. (TODAY LOCAL PRESS ADVERTISES INITIATION ON JULY 22 OF SERVICE BETWEEN LARNACA AND JOUNIEH BY YACHT FORMERLY OWNED BY PRINCE RANIER.) MY MISSION AS PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO LEBANON WOULD BE IMCOMPLETE WITHOUT SUCH A VISIT.

4. IF I WENT IN, SY AGENT PROVYN, ACCOMPANYING MURPHY, WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ADVANCE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WITH MURPHY'S HELP. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO COMPLETE MY CALLS WITHIN 3 OR 4 DAYS, AT WHICH TIME I COULD LEAVE BY THE SAME ROUTE AS I ARRIVED AND MURPHY COULD EITHER ACCOMPANY ME OUT OR RETURN TO DAMASCUS BY ROAD. IN EITHER CASE, HE WOULD THEN PROCEED TO BEIRUT FOR TEMPORARY DUTY.

5. WE ARE CANCELLING REQUEST FOR PLO ESCORT TO ACCOMPANY MURPHY "CONVOY" FROM SYRIAN BORDER TOMORROW, JULY 17, SINCE WE ASSUME DEPT WILL WISH HAVE MORE TIME TO CONSIDER FOREGOING PROPOSAL. CONVOY CAN ALWAYS BE LAID ON FOR LATER.
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